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REMARKS

In a telephonic restriction requirement, the Examiner restricted the claims into the following groups:

Groups 1-54: Claims 1-85, 131-134, and 179;
Groups 55-108: Claims 86 and 87;
Groups 109-162: Claims 88-130, 135-137, and 169-178;
Groups 163-216: Claims 138-140;
Groups 217-270: Claims 141-156 and 167-168;
Groups 271-324: Claims 157-164;
Group 325: Claims 165-166; and
Groups 326-379: Claim 180.

In response, Applicants' attorney provisionally elected, via telephone, the Group from Groups 1-54 directed to SEQ ID NO: 55 (polypeptide sequence) and SEQ ID NO: 1 (polynucleotide sequence), with traverse.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider maintaining those Groups from Groups 1-54 and Groups 109-162 that refer to SEQ ID NO: 55 (polypeptide sequence) or SEQ ID NO: 1 (polynucleotide sequence), together as a single group of polypeptide and polynucleotide claims that refer to either SEQ ID NO: 55 (polypeptide sequence) or SEQ ID NO: 1 (polynucleotide sequence). Applicants believe that searching the Group of Groups 109-162 that is directed to SEQ ID NO: 55 and SEQ ID NO: 1 should not be burdensome in view of the search that would be done for the elected Group in Groups 1-54 that corresponds to the election of SEQ ID NO: 55 and SEQ ID NO: 1. To facilitate the Examiner's reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement pertaining to Groups 1-54 and Groups 109-162, Applicants hereby submit a Preliminary Amendment that reflects the election of SEQ ID NO: 55 and SEQ ID NO: 1. Claims are presented that correspond in spirit to the groupings the Examiner has made in Groups 1-54 and Groups 109-162 and Applicants' election. Applicants would appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the claims that are presented herein prior to making the Restriction Requirement between Groups 1-54 and Groups 109-162 final.

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments provided herein prior to examination. Claims 1-17, 19, 21-48, 60-71, 82, 84-130, 132, 133, 135-178, and 179-180 have been canceled without prejudice to further prosecution in one or more related continuation or divisional applications. Claims 18, 20, 49, 50, 72-80, 83, 131, and 134 have been amended. Claims 181-212 have been added. Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 18, 20, 49, 50, 72-80, 83, 131, 134, and 181-212 are pending.

The amendments to the claims have been made to reflect the election of SEQ ID NO: 55 and SEQ ID NO: 1, and to also amend claim dependencies. Support for the amendment to claim 131 can be found in original claim 134, and the Specification at page 94, line 31 to page 95, line 1.

New claims 181-189 are directed to polypeptides and reference either SEQ ID NO: 55 or SEQ ID NO: 1. New claims 190-212 are directed to polynucleotides and reference either SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 55. Support for new claims 181, 186, 187, 189, 193, and 194, which refer to specific amino acid residue/position combinations, can be found in the Specification at page 77, line 31 to page 78, line 16. Applicants respectfully wish to point out to the Examiner that the reference to SEQ ID NO: 75 in the claims is made only to make it very clear how the amino acid positions are determined. This is expressly described in the Specification, for example, at page 78, line 16, and at page 22, lines 6-17.

Support for new claims 182-185 and 195-198 can be found in original claim 45, and in the Specification at page 55, lines 28-30. Support for new claims 188 and 192 can be found in original claims 51 and 103, respectively. Further support for new claim 189 can be found in original claim 39. Support for new claims 190-212 can be found in the Specification, for example, at page 45, lines 3-26, and in the original claims. It is respectfully submitted that the new claims and claim amendments are fully supported by the specification and original claims. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced by the new claims and claim amendments.

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Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set forth below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0990.

May 13, 2003

By:



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